

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
June 3, 1992

CITIZEN VOICES COMPLAINTS

CC-16 **Nguyen To Can, P. O. Box 9077, Stockton, addressed the City Council regarding her driver's license being suspended and numerous other complaints.**



Refugee Assistance Foundation INDOCHINESE CIVIL RIGHTS ACTION

May 1989

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English

AN OPEN LETTER TO CONCERNED AMERICANS

"ORGANIZED CRIMES ARE OPERATED, CIVIL RIGHTS TRAMPLED, FUNDAMENTAL AMERICAN PRINCIPLES OF JUSTICE AND DEMOCRACY VIOLATED BY PUBLIC EMPLOYEES IN THE STOCKTON POLICE & SJ MENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS !!!

On 4/7/89, at 11 P.M. when I was in bed, two Stockton Police Officers** came, handcuffed, took me to the San Joaquin Mental Health facility. They said the neighbors complained to the police that I shouted in my apartment and that caused disturbance in the neighborhood. So, they came to take me to the SJ Mental Health facility. They ignored my protest that I have neither had mental health problems nor caused disturbance.

They twisted my arms, handcuffed my wrists behind my back, broke my glasses, hit me on the head and the shoulders, slammed my body against the wall in the hall, then dragged me out of the building, threw me into a police car parked outside. There are still bruises, swollen spots, scars, and pains all over, especially in my chest, on my arms and hands. I screamed for help. No help came although just a few minutes ago there were light, voices and laughter in the other apartments and houses nearby. The violence against a lonely minority senior took place with the silent cooperation of those neighbors in the area.

When they arrived, I was calm, quiet and courteous. And, there was no disturbance of any type. I only resisted their dragging me out of the building when their cruelty made me think they were kidnappers in police uniforms. They didn't let me call my friends. They didn't let me put some clothes on. They dragged me out of my apartment in badtime clothing and barefooted.

On the way to the Mental Health facility, these Officers had insolent, threatening language, attitude and behaviors to inflict me with emotional and mental distress. They implied the possibility of sexual assaults. One officer said, "Perhaps we should send you to a boat to go back to Vietnam." Then, he told the other officer, "Let's go to a boat!" I thought immediately of the river downtown but they drove to SJ Mental Health Dpt. instead.

When arriving at the Mental Health facility, they still refused to open the handcuffs. I was let into the Admission Office in the most humiliating and miserable manner, with my hands handcuffed behind my back, my hair in disorder, and my inappropriate bedtime clothing. The worst criminal caught in the act cannot be treated worse.

An outpatient present in the office at the time said she found me calm and respectable. She could not understand why I was treated in such a manner. When I tried to give her my business card with some names and phone numbers to call for me, the Police and the staff seized my handbag with all its contents. The woman was rushed out of the room in a hurry.

A staff came out to take my name and my social security number. Then came a social worker. The Police officers reported to the staff. What they reported was far from the truth. For example, they reported that the landlord had evicted me; I called the Police 10 times that evening, and I was a friend of Patrick Purdy---the gunman who killed 5 Southeast Asian students and injured 29 other children and one teacher in the 1/7/89 Cleveland massacre.

After that, I was trapped on a bed for restraint purpose in seclusion, drugged heavily and detained with real mentally-disturbed patients in a crazy environment for 5 days and nights.

While I was there, I talked with other "detainees". Many were sound-minded and forced to stay there. I found out that ordinary conflict with someone, especially with the Police, can be a good reason for sound-minded individuals to be thrown into SJ Mental Health facility, trapped like wild animals and drugged. Basic civil rights are violated. This facility is a type of prison of its own.

NOTE: • I am a Southeast Asian minority senior living by myself on block 100 West Stadium Drive near the Pacific University, in an all White and Hispanic safe neighborhood.

** They told me their names were Iredrick and Benton.

*** In reality, for months, I have been victim of an organized disturbance that involves all sorts of noises created intentionally day and night, inside and outside of this 5-unit building, to prevent me from sleeping and doing my work. Noises from lawnmowing and dustblowing in the houses in the two blocks, including when it was late at night and even raining. The noises were kept going on all day long as those houses took turn and their lawns could be done 3, 4 or more times in a week. Noises from hundreds of vehicles of all types and makes---cars, vans, trucks, semi-trucks as big as trailers, heavy trucks for city's public works, garbage trucks with the Sunrise sign. Fleets of vehicles would speed by the building, roaring like crazy beasts, shaking the area. This ganglike tactics involves participants of all ages and social standings.

I have reported to the Police but they said there was nothing they could do. Just like when I reported the repeated breakins, ransacking, stealing, prowling, harrassing, terrorizing---that started to happen since last Spring when I publicly questioned problems on funding misuses and misappropriation, Chapter 1 Program deficiencies, law violation, discrimination in education and employment for Southeast Asians in local school districts.

Meanwhile, the Police responded promptly to the complaints of those suspected White law breakers. Two Officers came immediately every time they reported a "disturbance" problem, twice a day like on April 1, 1989. Racial discrimination or criminal protection?

In order to be released from the Mental Health facility and no longer drugged, I had to appear in two Court Hearings, write the Judge a 3-page letter. argue during both hearings to prove my mental competence, my being wrongfully detained and drugged. The letter was written in the bath room the night before the Court hearing so that the staff would not know of it and give me a heavier dose of medication, which might have paralyzed me completely on the Court hearing day.

After the Court hearings, Dr. Zia and SJ Mental Health staff ignored the Judge's ruling that I were to be released immediately and no one could impose the medication on me. They refused to release me until they could inject me with a heavy dose of Maudol and gave me 84 pills of Artane. I was given even anti-Parkinson medication although I have never had Parkinson and a mental health history.

I came out of the Mental health facility with pains, cuts, and bruises all over besides the horrible side effects of the heavy doses of drugs---muscle cramps, drwalness, blurred vision, unusual shaking, mental confusion, depression, stiffness, dry mouth, lightheadedness, constipation... It should be noted that no medical care of any type was given to my pains in the chest, cuts on the wrists, bruises all over from the minute I was checked in until checked out 5 days later. They violated the basic law and failed to comply with the basic requirements mandated by law.

I came out of this unbelievable experience a different person. I will never be the same again. Everything will never be the same again.

I left my homeland for the free world when I saw everywhere terror, inhumanity, cruelty, injustice, oppression... Here, in Stockton, I have experienced something worse than what I suffered when the Communists came to arrest and send me to their re-education camp in 1975. Here, it is an organized crime with a racial and terroristic nature, committed by public employees of public agencies with the cooperation of those interest groups and suspected criminals in the neighborhood I have reported to the law enforcement authorities.

When law violation is commonly practiced by public figures and police officers, tolerated by law enforcement system itself, it is understandable why no local high school is free from gang-related problems and Stockton has the fourth-highest percentage increase in crime last year among cities with more than 100,000 people as reported.

I want to question the role of SJ Mental Health Department. Is it a type of prison, an extension of the law enforcement system, created to penalize and paralyze those victims the Police bring to its facility?

I want to question the role of Stockton Police Department. Is its responsibility to protect law abiding residents and assure public safety or to protect those in power. Those racial and criminal conspiracies, kidnap and beat up innocent people, and send them to Mental Health Department to paralyze and terrorize its victims?

I also want to question the leadership and supervision of these two Department heads.

Tax payers do not make financial contributions to keep San Joaquin County in a police state, its residents in terror and vulnerable to the law breaking policies committed by public servants.

It is time for the public to review the performance of those public agencies that have failed public trust! It is also time for the public to demand this type of crimes to be brought to light, law violators to be punished.

For more information, please call (209) 466-5237 or (209) 957-2859.

Sincerely,
Robert T. To-Can

NOTE: The timing, the Mental Health factor in the kidnapping and imprisoning conspiracy are also questioned. While I was detained and drugged in the Mental Health facility, a series of events took place without my participation: (1) minorities' rally on Education issue took place in Sacramento; (2) Office of Civil Rights (OCR) came to investigate Lodi District's law violation and discrimination charged by RAF/ICHA; (3) the deadline to file an appeal with OCR concerning the law violation and discrimination problems in Lincoln District went by. (4) the established education system had their budget approved peacefully.

All my writings and evidences concerning the organized crimes, the problems in the established education network were ransacked and stolen. Worse even is the fact that my reports and complaints would lose their validity automatically. Who would listen and pay attention to the complaints and reasoning of someone who has been labelled "mentally-disturbed" by psychiatric professionals like Dr. Zia and MHS P. Wallace and non-professional individuals like my landlord and neighbors?

The basic rights stated in the Handbook of Rights for Mental Health Patients have been violated. Examples: ***"Seclusion and restraints shall only be used to prevent you from injuring yourself or others and only when other methods will not work (p. 18)."

They imposed physical restraint and drugged me heavily when absolutely unnecessary. I was extremely quiet, calm and courteous, following their orders and direction dutifully. There was no sign of violence, agitation and resistance of any type. I responded to their questions, talked and reasoned in a convincing manner, which showed a clear mind and sound judgement.

***"You have the right to... keep and use personal possessions... your possessions cannot be searched unless you are present and unless adequate reasons for the search are given (pp. 10 & 11).

My handbag was seized when I was using it. It was kept in the Business Office. Its content was not checked at my presence. My request to get my checkbook to pay some due bills was repeatedly denied by Social Worker Diane. When asked on 4/10/89, Suite A staff found even no information on the handbag or file..

***"You have the right while in an institution, to prompt, individual and adequate medical treatment." (p. 19)

No medical care of any type was given to my pains in the chest, cuts on the wrists, bruises all over from the minute I was checked in until checked out 5 days later. No even a band aid!